

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush comprising:  
  
two wire sections formed of austenitic steel and having a diameter of 0.3 mm or less; and  
  
filaments retained between the two wire sections which are twisted with one another,  
  
wherein the austenitic steel includes less than 0.05% nickel by weight.

2. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to Claim 1, wherein the two wire sections have a diameter of more than 0.15 mm.

3. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein the two wire sections have a tensile strength of  $1000 \text{ N/mm}^2$  or more.

4. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 1, wherein the two wire sections have a tensile strength of  $1200 \text{ N/mm}^2$  or less.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 1, wherein the two wire sections are stretched or drawn out.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 2, wherein the two wire sections have a tensile strength of  $1200 \text{ N/mm}^2$  or less.

10. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 3, wherein the wire sections have a tensile strength of  $1200 \text{ N/mm}^2$  or less.

11-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 2, wherein the two wire sections are stretched or drawn out.

15. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 3, wherein the wire sections are stretched or drawn out.

16. (Previously Presented) Interdental brush according to claim 4, wherein the two wire sections are stretched or drawn out.

17. (Canceled)

18. (New) Interdental brush comprising:

two wire sections formed of austenitic steel and having a diameter of 0.3 mm or less; and

filaments retained between the two wire sections which are twisted with one another, wherein the austenitic steel contains manganese, nitrogen, carbon, chromium, molybdenum, silicon, phosphorus, titanium, iron and nickel as alloying constituents and the proportion of nickel in the austenitic steel is less than 0.05% by weight.

19. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of chromium in the steel is 17% by weight, plus or minus 3% by weight.

20. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of manganese in the steel is 14% by weight, plus or minus 3% by weight.

21. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 19, wherein the proportion of manganese in the steel is 14% by weight, plus or minus 3% by weight.

22. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of nitrogen in the steel is 0.5% by weight.

23. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 19, wherein the proportion of nitrogen in the steel is 0.5% by weight.

24. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 20, wherein the proportion of nitrogen in the steel is 0.5% by weight.

25. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of molybdenum in the steel is 2% by weight.

26. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of carbon in the steel is 0.11% by weight.

27. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of silicon in the steel is 0.25% by weight.

28. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of phosphorus in the steel is 0.02% by weight.

29. (New) Interdental brush according to claim 18, wherein the proportion of titanium in the steel is 0.006% by weight.